(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of mandatory testing started by Government from January, 2006, many medicines contain toxic content; and

(d) if so, how the drug licensing authorities are ensuring compliance with instructions/ rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Ayurvedic herbal mineral and metallic formations which are prepared according to the standard operative procedure laid down in the formularies and which have been detoxified in terms of the purification processes laid down in the classical texts are safe and are not hazardous to health. Such medicines are widely used in the country and no adverse reports have been received about them. The regulatory authorities in some countries have issued alerts against certain Ayurvedic products on the grounds that they contain heavy metals in higher limits that permissible in food material. These alerts have been issued on the basis of the standards prescribed in those countries for health food supplements.

(c) and (d) As per the Government orders, it is mandatory to enclose the test report for heavy metal estimation with export consignments of purely herbal Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani medicine with effect from 1st January, 2006. Exporters have been asked to comply with these orders.

The State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provisions of Rule 161 (1) and (2) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparations together with the quanity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein.

Government has instructed all States under the provision of Rule 154 (2) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to constitute Expert Committees for advising the State Licensing Authority before any manufacturing unit is given a license for the manufacture of any patent and proprietary Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine.

Iron fortification

578. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron fortification has not been included in the National Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is one of the main reasons for the increased number of anemia cases in the country as per the report of the National Family Health Survey;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps his Ministry has taken or proposed to take to provide iron and folic acid through supplementation for all children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) There is no National Programme for fortification including that of iron. However, standards of iron fortification with salt, wheat flour and maida have been made under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Anemia is a multifaceted problem. The important components required for prevention and control of anemia are iron, folic acid, B12, Vitamin C, protein etc. The deficiency of iron leads to nutritional iron deficiency anemia.

To combat anemia, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) under the National Rural Health Mission, provides iron and folic acid supplementation to pregnant and lactating women, pre-school children, school going children and adolescent girls. The States have been advised to organise monthly health and nutrition days where anemia prevention measures are also discussed by ASHA and Anganwadi worker with the community.

Trauma care centres

579. SHRIMATI NR DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national highways covered in first phase of 'Project for Establishment of Trauma Care Facilities' in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when, the trauma centres would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Under the first Phase of the scheme namely 'Project for Establishment of Trauma Care Facilities' on National Highways, following State Government Hospitals/ Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh have been identified:—

(i) Tekkai Taluk Hospital, Srikakulam

(ii) Srikakulam Distt., Hospital, Srikakulam

(iii) Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam

(iv) Tuni Taluk Hospital, East Godavari

(v) Rajamundri Hospital, East Godavari

(vi) Elluru District Hospital, West Godavari

(vii) Guntur Medical College, Guntur

(viii) Ongole District Hospital, Prakasam

(ix) Nellore District Hospital, Nellore

(x) Nayadupet Taluk Hospital, Nellore

The Memorandum of Understanding has not yet been signed with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.